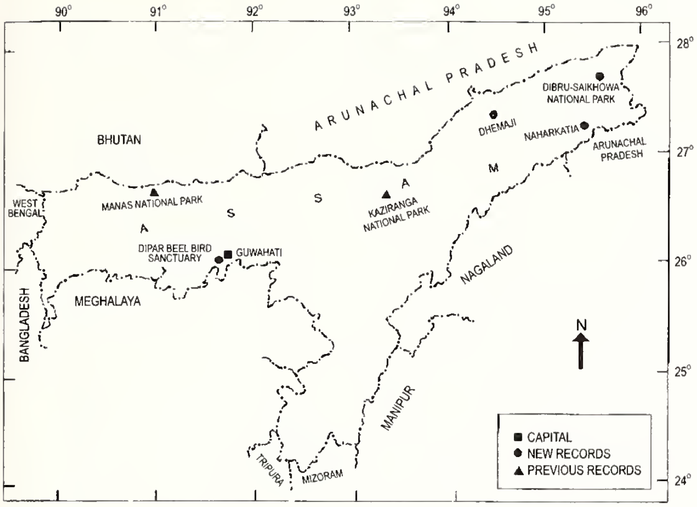

Fig. 1: Past and present wintering sites of White-throated Bushchat

grasses and ground close to the water. Later, on January 01, 2004, one male was observed in the same area. Again on January 01, 2005, one female was observed on an *Ipomoea aquatica* grove in the northern edge of the Sanctuary close to the Satmile.

On another occasion, a male was seen by the first author on February 10, 2004 near the Jia Dhal river (27° 25' N; 94° 30' E) close to National Highway 31 and 10 km west of Dhemaji town. The bird was perched on *Vetiveria zizanioides* grass. There were other short grasses and small scrubs in the area.

In Dibru-Saikhowa National Park, a lone male was observed foraging on April 04, 1997 at Kolomi grassland near Kolomi camp (27° 37' N; 95° 21' E). Then on March 01, 1999 two males were observed at Kundaghat area and a lone male was observed near Kolomi (27° 38' N; 95° 20' E) on April 15, 2000. The habitat of the area was Salix *Salix tetrasperma* swamp forest mixed with grassland. Later, on December 19 and 20, 2004 a female was observed at Toralimukh (27° 38' N; 95° 20' E) at about 1030 hours. All observations in the Dibru-Saikhowa National Park were made by the second author.

From these observations it is clear that the easternmost winter range of the White-throated Bushchat in India extends at least up to Dibru-Saikhowa National Park (Kolomi grassland 27° 37' N; 95° 21' E) and Merbil (27° 19' N; 95° 18' E) of Assam. Another important point is that a small population of *Saxicola insignis* regularly visits both Deepar Beel Bird Sanctuary and Dibru-Saikhowa National Park. However, there has been no recent report of this species in Manas and Kaziranga national parks after the sightings of Narayan and Rosalind (1997), and Sarma *et al.* (1997).

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8. FOREST WAGTAIL *DENDRONANTHUS INDICUS* IN JAMNAGAR MEDICAL CAMPUS[1]

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On February 23, 2005, at 1430 hours, we sighted a Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus indicus* on a Neem tree in our hostel campus. We photographed the bird (Eds: photographic evidence provided) and observed it for the next three days at the same place.

Dendronanthus indicus is mostly recorded in evergreen and deciduous forests. In Gujarat, it is recorded in the Gir and Dang forest (Dharmakumarsinhji 1954, 1963). Himmatsinhji (1967, 1970) had seen this bird at Bhuj in his garden on January 10, 1967 and again at Vijayvilas, Mandvi on December 31, 1969. Khacher (1989) had seen it at Jasdan in his compound on November 19, 1967.

Our campus is in the middle of Jamnagar city, hence this sighting is worth recording.

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9. FURTHER RECORDS OF GREAT KNOT *CALIDRIS TENUIROSTRIS* AND RED KNOT *CALIDRIS CANUTUS* FROM THE NORTH-EAST COAST OF INDIA[1]

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In 2002-03, many interesting records of uncommon waterbird species were obtained from Chilika Lake (19° 28'-19° 54' N; 85° 05'-85° 38' E, Orissa, India) during our research project entitled "Habitat evaluation of Chilika Lake with special reference to birds as bio-indicators" involving bird-banding technique as one of the objectives to assess the population dynamics of waterbirds. On November 25, 2002, one Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* was trapped from the soggy land in Parikud area of the Lake. It was ringed, aged, measured, weighed and examined for moult before release. Interestingly, we recaptured the same bird exactly after 17 days from the same place. A few individuals were also sighted in 2004-05 season. These records helped to plug the gap in the status and distribution of this species in the Indian wintering grounds, especially along the east coast. As per the available records (Ali and Ripley 1983), the Great Knots migrate from their breeding grounds in Siberia to the Indian subcontinent during winter. This species is also recorded from Assam, Kolkata, Chennai, Andaman and Lakshadweep Islands (Ali and Ripley 1983). Until Balachandran (1997) reported the Great Knot as a regular winter visitor to the south-east coast of India, the status of this species was known as a rare winter visitor to the east coast of India, with a few stray records at Point Calimere (Ali and Hussain 1981) and Pulicat Lake (Mohapatra and Rao 1993). Recently, this species was found occurring regularly at Point Calimere as was evident from the number of birds ringed during the bird banding training programmes organized between 1999 and 2002 (Daniel and Balachandran 2002). A total of 250 individuals were sighted at Jumbodweep of Sunderbans during a field visit by us in October 2004, and 20 individuals were sighted from the same place during the first week of January 2005 by the Spoonbilled Sandpiper Expedition Team (Zöckler *et al.* 2005). A flock of 54 birds were seen by this team during the mid-winter Waterfowl Count-2005 carried out at Bhitarkanika. These records of this species at Chilika, Bhitarkanika and Sunderbans helped to establish this species as a regular, uncommon winter visitor to the entire eastern coast. Moreover, the record at Chilika Lake is the first record for this species.

Similarly, three individuals of the Red Knot *Calidris canutus* were caught at Nalabana Island on February 25, 2003. Recapture of one of the individuals after 16 days in the same area is interesting and worth mentioning. A total of twenty three and a single Red Knot were recorded during October 2004 and January 2005 respectively from Jumbodweep of Sunderbans. For the Red Knot, Balachandran (1990) and Rao and Mohapatra (1993) have revised the 'rare vagrant' status assigned by Ali and Ripley (1983) and Cramp and Simmons (1983) to a regular uncommon winter visitor to the south-east coast. Further extension of the wintering range up to Sunderbans was established through the ringing of Red Knots at Chilika and sighting at Sunderbans (Zöckler *et al.* 2005).

The measurements of Red Knots ringed at Chilika tallied with that of the measurements obtained for the subspecies *rogersi* reported by Balachandran (1998) in the south-east coast wintering ground of India. Though the sample size is small, it is helpful to predict that the subspecies found in the entire east coast may belong to *rogersi*, which breeds in east Siberia and winters in Australia.

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